

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 NEA-10 IO-12 ADP-00 INT-08 AID-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

OPIC-12 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 SS-15

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FM USMISSION OECD PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9404

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

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AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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E. O. 11652 NA/

TAGS: ENRG, OECD

SUBJ: OECD OIL COMMITTEE AND HIGH- LEVEL GROUP

REFS: (A) STATE 71942

(B) PARIS 10984

1. SUMMARY: SEC GEN BELIEVES POSTPONEMENT OF OIL COMMITTEE AND HIGH- LEVEL GROUP MEETINGS WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE. SEES SEQUENCE OF THOSE MEETINGS AND FOLLOWING MINISTERIAL COUNCIL AS IMPORTANT TO PROGRESS ON OECD ENERGY STUDY. ALSO CONCERNED RELATIONSHIP OECD TO OTHER INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON CONSIDERATION OF SEC GEN' S ARGUMENTATION. AS INDICATED REF B, IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT WE KNOW BEFORE APRIL 25 HEADS OF DELS MEETING IF WASHINGTON HAS FURTHER THOUGHTS. IF WASHINGTON CONTINUES TO BELIEVE MEETINGS SHOULD BE POSTPONED. MISSION SUGGESTS EMBASSIES IN KEY CAPS (AT LEAST BONN AND TOKYO) BE INSTRUCTED TO SUPPORT REQUEST FOR POSTPONEMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. MISSION INFORMED SEC GEN AND DEP SEC GEN ELDIN OF US REQUEST TO POSTPONE OIL COMMITTEE AND HLG (FROM MAY 8-10 TO JUNE 12-14) BEFORE APRIL 18 HEADS OF DELS MEETING SO THAT THEY COULD TAKE REQUEST INTO ACCOUNT IN DISCUSSION OF MINISTERIAL COUNCIL AGENDA (REF B). AT SEC GEN' S REQUEST, CHARGE DISCUSSED QUESTION IN DEPTH APRIL 19 IN MEETING ATTENDED ALSO BY ELDIN. MEETING GAVE GHACGE OPPORTUNITY ALSO TO INQUIRE FUTHER AS TO SEC GEN' S THOUGHTS ON DISCUSSION OF ENERGY AT MINISTERIAL.

3. SEC GEN AND ELDIN SEE OIL COMMITTEE/ HLG MEETINGS PRIOR MINISTERIAL AS PART OF STRATEGY TO PREPARE AND PLAN WORK ON ENERGY FOR REST OF YEAR. IT IS THEIR HOPE OIL COMMITTEE/ HLG WILL AGREE ON CATALOG OF COOPERATIVE ACTIONS TO BE STUDIED AS FOLLOW- ON TO ASSESSMENT OF OIL SITUATION.

4. MINISTERIAL CONSIDERATION WOULD BEGIN WITH STATUS REPORT ON LONG- RUN ENERGY STUDY WHICH WOULD BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOLLOWED BY DISCUSSION FOCUSING ON SHORT- RUN (OIL ASSESS-

MENT) ASPECTS. DISCUSSION WOULD BE INTRODUCED BY SUMMING UP RESULTS OF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE WITH OUTLINE OF DIFFERENT KINDS OF COOPERATIVE ACTIONS THAT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IN OECD. MINISTERS WOULD THEN HOPEFULLY AGREE ON CATALOG OF POSSIBLE ACTIONS TO BE STUDIES AND GIVE OIL COMMITTEE/ HLG POLITICAL IMPETUS TO PROCEED WITH STUDY.

5. SEC GEN CONSIDERS MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION WOULD DEFINITELY SUFFER IF NOT PRECEDED BY OIL COMMITTEE/ HLG DISCUSSIONS. PROGRESS UNDER ENERGY STUDY TO BE REPORTED WOULD BE RATHER MEAGER, SINCE SECRETARIAT RESOURCES HAVE BEEN FULLY OCCUPIED WITH PREPARATION OF OIL COMMITTEE/ HLG DISCUSSION OF SHORT- RUN ASPECTS. ON OTHER HAND, HE BELIEVES ENERGY STUDY, IN PARTICULAR ITS SHORT- RUN ASPECTS, NEEDS HIGHER LEVEL GUIDANCE THAT CAN BE PROVIDED ONLY AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL. HE POINTED OUT THAT MOST GOVERNMENTS ARE NOT REPRESENTED AT HLG AT POLITICAL LEVEL.

6. DISCUSSION SHOUWED SEC GEN AND ELDIN ALSO CONCERNED ON BASIS OF PRESS AND OTHER REPORTS THAT ALTERNATIVE CHANNELS OF COOPERATION MAY BE DEVELOPED IF OECD DOES NOT PROCEED EXPEDITIOUSLY. HE THOUGH THERE WOULD BE MAJOR ADVANTAGE IN OIL COMMITTEE/ HLG CONSIDERATION OF ASSESSMENT PAPER BEFORE EC MINISTERIAL COUNCIL MEETING ON ENERGY SCHEDULED FOR MAY 22.

7. CHARGE SAID HE DID NOT SHARE SEC GEN' S VIEWPOINT. POINTED TO EC COMMISSION REP STATEMENT AT HEADS OF DELS MEETING (REF B) FAVORING OECD AS FORUM FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION. HE REFERRED TO CONVERSATION WITH AN EC AMBASSADOR (UK), IN WHICH LATTER EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE EC MAY 22 MEETING WOULD BE PRELIMINARY AND INCONCLUSIVE. HE ALSO QUOTED SECTION ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FROM PRESIDENT' S ENERGY MESSAGE WHICH GAVE PROMINENT PLACE TO OECD ENERGY STUDY AND ACTION TO SHARE OIL IN TIMES OF ACUTE SHORTAGE.

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8. CHARGE STRESSED IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO APPROPRIATELY HIGH POLITICAL LEVEL US REPRESENTATION AT HLG, US VIEW, EXPRESSED AT HEADS OF DELS MEETING IS THAT DISCUSSION OF ENERGY AT MINISTERIAL SHOULD BE IN GENERAL TERMS WHICH POSTPONEMENT WOULD FACILITATE. CHARGE SUGGESTED

ANOTHER POSSIBLE SOLUTION WOULD BE TO REMOVE ENERGY COMPLETELY
FROM MINISTERIAL AGENDA, BUT HE AGREED ALSO TO
CONSULT WITH WASHINGTON AGAIN REGARDING POSSIBILITY HOLDING
OIL COMMITTEE/ HLG MEETINGS IN MAY.

9. WE UNDERSTAND FROM UK DEL THAT BRITISH WOULD
WARMLY SUPPORT POSTPONEMENT.
BROWN

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